



National Commission on the Future of the Army
2530 Crystal Drive, Zachary Taylor Building, Suite 5000
Arlington, VA 22202

SUBJECT: National Commission on the Future of the Army (NCFA) Minutes from Engagement - 14 JUL 15, First Army, Division East Headquarters

Date: 14 July 2015

Time: 1410 - 1535

Location: First Army, Division East HQs Bldg, Fort Meade, Maryland

Format: Round Table with Select First Army Staff Members

Attendees:

Commissioner Carter Ham (Chairman)

Mr. Rickey Smith – NCFA Staff, Chief of Staff

Mr. Scott Sharp – NCFA Staff

LTC Tim Palmer – NCFA Staff

MAJ Doroneth White – NCFA Staff

Mr. Mark von Heeringen – Alternate Designated Federal Officer (ADFO)

COL Tim Newsome – Division East, Chief of Staff

COL Michael Shrout – Division East, Operations Officer

MAJ Stephanie Lawrence – Division East, Staff Officer

Documents Submitted to Commission: Command Briefing Charts: Briefing Discussion Topics
National Commission on the Future of the Army

Meeting Summary

The ADFO explained the application of the Federal Advisory Committee Act including all materials and discussions would be posted on the Commission's public website. Chairman Ham discussed the purpose of the National Commission on the Future of the Army and reason for meeting as gathering input on the issues before the Commission. Key threads of the discussion included the following:

The group discussed the First Army East re-organization, Bold Shift. Each Brigade and the Division HQs are multi-compo and the command has worked hard to change the perception of being seen as "the wardens" who are mandating Active Component requirements. First Army wants to be noted for providing Army requirements or CENTCOM requirements, as opposed to "AC requirements." The number of transitions referred to as "Bold Shift" occur for the FY17 TDA. The Division East staff noted there is no aviation capability in Division East and there

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will be no Division staff once transition is complete. Only a small skeleton staff with liaisons will remain (final concepts still working) yet there will be the same total number of personnel in Division East before and after the reorganization with more manning at the battalion level.

Division East staff discussed the challenges of training some 181 brigade-level Army National Guard (ARNG) and US Army Reserve (USAR) units. They highlighted the seasonal nature of Reserve Component exercises with most unit training events accomplished May thru September, which compounds the challenge. The staff also highlighted a Multi-echelon Integrated Brigade Training (MIBT) exercise as a vehicle to leverage and promulgate best practices.

Commissioner Ham asked if the right types of Regular Army personnel are available to populate the training brigades and staff indicated improvements – e.g., Battalion Command positions are now being filled by officers from the Centralized Selection List (CSL) for commanders and they anticipate being managed at a higher fill level by Human Resources Command.

Commissioner Ham recognized the importance of First Army's work and the important insight developed working with the RC. The meeting concluded with final comments about 18th Airborne Corps, and 101st Airborne Division multi-component yearlong assessments that will culminate with Corps-level war fighter exercises in February, which prompted Commissioner Ham to ask why there isn't a pilot for an Army National Guard unit that has Active Soldiers assigned to it? Observation was offered that First Army personnel are uniquely qualified to assist in the future of the Army based on their service with the reserve components, perhaps there should be a requirement like joint assignments under Goldwater Nichols law for senior promotion.

The meeting concluded at 1535hrs.